(d) whether Government have made any efforts to raise this issue at other international forum; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) and (b) There are reportedly 52 terrorist training camps in Pakistan and Pakistan Occupied Kashmir. Government has, in its interaction with Pakistan at all levels, continuously stressed the fact that Pakistan needs to take effective action to dismantle the infrastructure of support to terrorism on a permanent basis. Government has made it clear to Pakistan that the premise on which the present dialogue process is based on the commitment of January 6, 2004 by Pakistan not to permit any territory under Pakistan's control to be used to support terrorism in any manner. Pakistan has always denied the presence of terrorist training camps in Pakistan and in the territory under its control.

Indian insurgent groups continue to misuse Bangladesh territory for sanctuary, training camps, transportation of arms, and transit. These insurgents are being supported by intelligence agencies, both civilian and military, of Bangladesh. A list of 172 Indian insurgent group camps and 307 criminals/insurgents was handed over in the DG level Border Security Force (BSF) —Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) talks held in September-October 2005. However, Bangladesh continues to maintain a policy of complete denial. It has started to make counter-claims of anti-Bangladesh elements operating out of India.

(c) to (e) India is committed to resolve all outstanding issues bilaterally and peacefully.

Problems of Bhutani Refugees

†2931. SHRI SAMAN PATHAK: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are concerned about the problem of Bhutani refugees;

(b) if so, the steps taken by Government to solve the problem of Bhutani Refugees;

(c) whether any discussion has been held between Government of India and Government of Bhutan in this regard; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) to (d) The Government of India is aware of the existence of camps in Nepal housing several thousand refugees and of the fact that the Royal Government of Bhutan and Government of Nepal are engaged in bilateral discussions to address this issue. As a friendly neighbour of both the countries, Government of India sincerely hopes that this long-pending issue would be resolved at the earliest.

Celebration of first war of Independence

2932. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to rope people from Pakistan and Bangladesh into the 150th anniversary celebrations of the first war of Indian Independence;

(b) if so, the details worked out so far;

(c) whether Government had set up a national committee to draw up the contours;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the said Committee had met to discuss the issue; and

(f) if so, the details thereof and the decisions taken so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI ANAND SHARMA): (a) to (f) Yes, Sir. The Government has set up a National Committee under the Chairmanship of the Prime Minister to chalk out the programmes for celebration of the 150th anniversary of the First War of Independence, 1857 and other related events. The Committee includes former Prime Ministers, Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha, Chairperson UPA, several Union Ministers, Governors, Chief Ministers of States, representatives of political parties, MPs, journalists and other dignitaries.

The Committee held its first meeting on July 13, 2006 at which suggestions were made by members, *inter alia,* on publishing documents relating to freedom struggle in Hindi and other regional languages, publish eye-witness accounts of freedom movement, hold commemorative programmes at the National, State and local levels throughout the year